

FISCAL NOTE
HB 962 - SB 858

April 11, 2003

SUMMARY OF BILL:

1. Allows:
 - Tennessee citizens 65 years of age or older to play golf on courses in state parks on Monday of each week, which does not fall on a legal holiday, without a payment of green fees, upon showing satisfactory proof of age and residence when applying at the club house for permission to play.
 - Tennessee citizens 65 years of age or older, upon showing proof of age, to engage in sport fishing and hunting in state parks without a fee or cost required by the park, except when participating in any managed controlled hunt in any such park.
 - Persons 62 years of age or older to obtain a 50% discount on camping fees charged at state parks within the Tennessee state park system.
2. Authorizes and directs the Department of Environment and Conservation to devise and furnish free of charge applications requiring satisfactory proof of residence and age of program participants, to issue complimentary courtesy cards or provide such other means as may be appropriate to identify approved participants and to promulgate rules and regulations.
3. Provides that in addition to the discounts and free programs, the commissioner shall also offer discounted rates for other activities, programs and lodging at the state park to senior citizens, disabled persons, state employees, members of the Tennessee National Guard, and any other group that the Commissioner deems appropriate. Specific activities where these discounts would apply, as well as the timing and amount, will be left to the Commissioner's discretion.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - Not Significant
Decrease State Revenues - Exceeds \$200,000

Estimate assumes:

- the amount of decreased revenues would depend on the number of participants qualifying for the discounted fee. The amount cannot be determined but is estimated to exceed \$200,000.
- a not significant increase in expenditures to the Department of Environment and Conservation to provide participants with properly approved identification to qualify for discounts.

For information purposes, the amount of revenue lost from the last time free golf was offered on Mondays from June 1999 to May of 2000 was \$322,208. There were 20,138 rounds of free golf played. The loss is based on an average of a \$16 green fee.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



James A. Davenport, Executive Director